

**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JULY 21, 2014
-CORRECTED-**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Cathy Vargas called the July 21, 2014 Senior Affairs Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Rocky Hill Town Hall, 761 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT.

Those in attendance: Councilor Joe Kochanek, Councilor Frank Szeps, Denise Sanderson (Elderly Services Coordinator/Municipal Agent) and Cathy Sylvester (Senior Coordinator/Recreation Supervisor). Also present were: Various Seniors of R.H.: Barbara Josephs, Marlene O'Leary, Toni Palazzolo, Melodie Perretto and Marilyn Swepson (Entered at 5:03 p.m.).

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairwoman Cathy Vargas asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to comment on anything. There was no one from the public who wished to.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES & WORKING NOTES – JUNE'S MEETING

Councilor Frank Szeps made a motion to approve the Minutes and Working Notes of the June 16, 2014 meeting of the Senior Affairs Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Joe Kochanek and adopted unanimously.

4. REVIEW 2ND DRAFT ROCKY HILL SENIOR SURVEY

Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said she wanted to thank Denise Sanderson and all of the senior groups that were involved in doing this survey. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas thought that they had captured everything. She mentioned that there is a lot on the page but she had e-mailed Lisa Zerio (Director of Parks and Recreation & Custodial Staff) last week and she had said that she had already sent this to her person who was working on this to get this into the next Parks and Recreation booklet if this was to be approved this evening. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas thought this is an awesome thing.

Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said that she only had one comment and that was with regards to there being no due date for the senior survey to be returned by. Denise Sanderson said that Bridget (no last name was given) will usually send this back to them for them to review it and she said this is just like with the brochure. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas mentioned one month with regards to the senior survey being returned and she asked the Councilors if they had any

comments as to that length of time. Councilor Frank Szeps said he had no comment on that. Councilor Joe Kochanek thought this should be six weeks and he then mentioned that this was because of the time that this will get out there by. Denise Sanderson said this will get out pretty fast. She mentioned that this brochure is an insert in *Rocky Hill Life*. She said to her, they have a two week deadline when they do things. This gets people motivated to send things back. She then mentioned that they could go three weeks. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said they could find out what the date is that *Rocky Hill Life* is coming out and they can add two weeks to that. Cathy Sylvester said this will be coming out at the end of August or in the beginning of September and she thinks it is around September 2, 2014. Denise Sanderson said that they will just find out when the registration date is and when the *Rocky Hill Life* will go out. Councilor Joe Kochanek said that is fine. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said she is also hoping that they will be able to get this survey on one page because people normally don't look at flipping a page over.

Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said this Committee definitely won't have a meeting in August because there wouldn't be much to talk about. She would rather wait until they get the senior survey back with some results and then they can go from there. She asked the Councilors if they had any comments or questions. Councilor Joe Kochanek asked who will be doing the compiling of the senior survey after they get it back. Denise Sanderson thinks that all of them will. They will sit down after they get everything and they will come up with categories. They will put their heads together. Councilor Joe Kochanek asked if they will have a spreadsheet with regards to the numbers of people who had answered "yes", "no", or "maybe". Denise Sanderson said right. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said this could probably be done in Excel. Someone could create a spreadsheet and then the information can be input on that once it comes in.

Chairwoman Cathy Vargas asked Councilor Frank Szeps if he had any questions and he didn't. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas asked the Councilors if they were all good with this and they were.

Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said excellent. She told Denise Sanderson and Cathy Sylvester when this senior survey gets back to them if they could just put a due date on it.

Chairwoman Cathy Vargas referred to other avenues for getting the senior survey out and she asked if this could be put on the Town's website. There will be copies of this at the Parks and Recreation Department and she asked if they could make sure that some are at the Cora J. Belden Library too. Denise Sanderson said they will make sure that this will go into the senior newsletter. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas mentioned how it had also been brought up about having this senior survey put in the churches. Denise Sanderson said that the churches get the senior newsletter. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas confirmed that this will get to the churches and Denise Sanderson said yes. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said she thinks they will have everyone covered if they hit all of those areas. Denise Sanderson said the senior newsletter is also sent to the convalescent homes but she said that the family members are the ones who look at it. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said they can see if someone from there sends something back and she said that this can't hurt.

Councilor Joe Kochanek asked who actually helped to put the senior survey together. Denise Sanderson referred to everyone who was sitting in Council Chambers at that time. Councilor Joe

Kochanek asked them if they are all satisfied with the information that is in this. Melodie Perretto said very much so.

Barbara Josephs said that she had a question. She referred to how the senior survey at the top states "Survey For The Future Needs..." and she thought they had to eliminate that. She thought this senior survey is more for them to get information about a larger facility. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said that is true. She asked everyone what they thought. She said that they are trying to collect all kinds of information. Barbara Josephs said that she thinks this is okay but not as a headline and she explained some more. Councilor Joe Kochanek said if they just drop "Center" off so that it states "For A Larger Senior/Community". He asked if it is correct that this is what they are anticipating. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said she would take the slash out between "Senior" and "Community". She confirmed that they will be trying to figure out what is going on in the senior community in Rocky Hill versus the Community Center. She thinks this would be good because it wouldn't focus just on the Community Center and she said that hopefully more people would look at the survey. She said that was a good suggestion. Denise Sanderson said they will send the changes to Bridget and Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said okay.

Melodie Perretto said they were mentioning avenues with regards to disseminating this. She said that *Rocky Hill Life* and the churches were mentioned. She said that she could see if they could get this on their community television as another avenue so that people can be made aware that this senior survey is coming out. This way, they might hit some of the individuals who don't frequent the Senior Center. She mentioned some more. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said okay. Councilor Joe Kochanek said that is very good and he said that this could go on a scroller. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said excellent. Denise Sanderson said they can send the senior newsletter and write a little note to the guys who are in charge so that they can put a "little blurb" about the senior survey that will be coming out. Chairwoman Cathy Vargas said awesome.

Chairwoman Cathy Vargas thinks this is a great job and she said they will hopefully get some great results from this.

5. OTHER

Chairwoman Cathy Vargas asked if there were any other items that anyone wanted to talk about. There were none.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Frank Szeps made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:11 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Joe Kochanek and adopted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth
Recording Secretary

